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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 ARA-06 USIE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 AID-05 PC-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NEA-10 /105 W
----------111627Z 025197 /40
O 111435Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2923
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3370

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, FR
SUBJ: SHABA INVASION: ALLEGED FRENCH REPORT OF CUBAN PARTICIPATION

1. FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA ASKED ME TO COME BY HIS HOUSE LATE LAST NIGHT, APRIL 10, TO RECEIVE SOME "IMPORTANT INFORMATION" WHICH PRESIDENT MOBUTU WANTED US TO HAVE IMMEDIATELY. THIS TURNED OUT TO BE A REPORT WHICH THE GOZ HAD ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED FROM FRENCH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS NOW OPERATING IN SHABA THAT 20 CUBAN ADVISERS WERE STATIONED WITH THE KATANGANS IN THE TOWN OF MUTSHATSHA, WEST OF KOLWEZI. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, FOLLOWING THE ARRIVAL OF MOROCCAN TROOPS THE CUBANS HAD BEEN ORDERED TO WITHDRAW TO DILOLO ON THE ANGOLAN BORDER SO AS TO LIMIT THE RISK OF THEIR BEING SEEN OR CAPTURED. THIS WITHDRAWAL HAD TAKEN PLACE ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 10. NGUZA SAID MOBUTU CONSIDERED THIS INFORMATION AS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT EVIDENCE OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT BECUSE IT COMES FROM SLID, I.E. FRENCH, SOURCES.

2. I CHECKED OUT THE ABOVE INFORMATION THIS MORNING WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR ROSS. HE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THIS REPORT BUT DID NOT RPT NOT CONSIDER IT TO BE RELIABLE. TO HIS
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KNOWLEDGE, THERE IS STILL NO HARD EVIDENCE FROM ANY SOURCES OF CUBAN OR SOVIET PRESENCE AMONG THE KATANGANS. HE ADDED THAT ONE OF THE FRENCH OFFICERS WOULD BE RETURNING TO KINSHASA TONIGHT AND THAT HE WOULD LET ME KNOW IF ANY EVIDENCE HAD IN FACE BEEN OBTAINED.

3. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE, ONE OF MOBUTU'S

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CHIEF CONCERNS IS DEMONSTRATING ONE WAY OR ANOTHER CUBAN OR
OTHER FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN THE SHABA INVASION. HAVING
GONE ON RECORD PUBLICLY THAT CUBANS ARE INVOLVED, HE IS ANNOYED
EVERYTIME HE HEARS US DENY TO THE PRESS THAT WE HAVE ANY
EVIDENCE THAT WOULD SUPPORT HIS CONTENTION. THIS LATEST EFFORT
TO CONVINCE US SEEMS LITTLE BETTER THAN PREVIOUS ONES,
ALTHOUGH IT IS STILL POSSIBLE THAT THE FRENCH MAY STRENGTHEN
THE GOZ'S INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY AND PRODUCE MORE EVIDENCE
OF NON-KATANGAN PARTICIPATION THAN WE HAVE SEEN TO DATE.
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